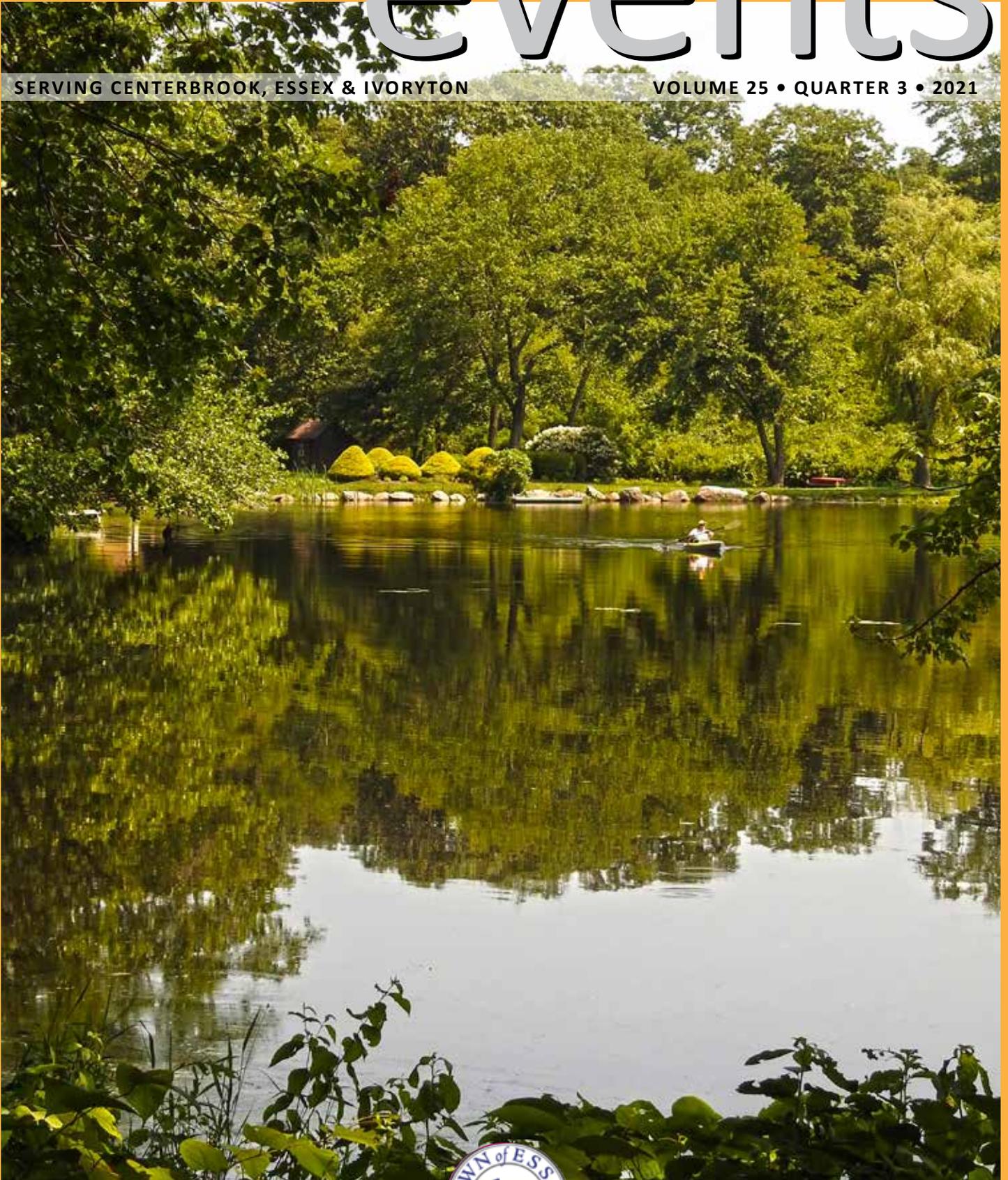


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First Selectman's Corner

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am pleased to report that over 70 percent of the Town's population, all ages, have at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination. Having a thoughtful conversation with friends and family members about getting vaccinated can often help them overcome reluctance. The best protection against COVID-19 and its variants is vaccination. While many restrictions have been removed, please continue to follow state and local health department guidance.

It is wonderful to see our three villages busy with visitors and residents enjoying all that Essex has to offer. Please shop and eat local when you can, local businesses and restaurants rely on our patronage to thrive. Grab a chair and enjoy the free Summer Concert Series in full swing with weekly concerts at the Main Street Park and the Ivoryton Green. Consider visiting the CT River Museum, catching a show at the Ivoryton Playhouse, or taking a ride on the Essex Steam Train. Check the Essex Board of Trade website for upcoming events at: www.essexct.com.

The Town Hall is open to the public. Vaccinated employees and visitors are no longer required to wear a mask in the building. However, non-vaccinated employees and visitors

are required to wear masks inside the Town Hall, per Governor Lamont's executive order. Masks are available at the parking lot entrance should you need one. Indoor floor arrows directing traffic flow no longer need to be followed. For updates, please visit: www.essexct.gov.



Norm Needleman
First Selectman

I would like to thank Essex residents for unanimously supporting the annual budget. The \$25,653,515 combined Town and education budget plan for fiscal year 2021-2022 was approved by votes at our Annual Town Budget Meeting on May 10th. The total spending package, which reflects a 4.06% increase, included the Town government budget, an appropriation for Essex Elementary School, and the Town's share of the Region 4 education budget. The Town's educational costs for Region 4 increased 7.79% from the current year in correlation with the increase in Essex students eligible to attend John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School. After thoughtful discussion, the mill rate was set at 22.43.
continued on page 5

A scenic photograph of an outdoor patio area at dusk. In the foreground, a circular stone fire pit with a fire burning inside is the central focus. Several white Adirondack chairs are arranged around the fire pit. A blue jacket is draped over one of the chairs. In the background, a calm lake reflects the soft light of the setting sun, with a line of trees on the far shore. The sky is a mix of light blue and orange.

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First Selectman... continued from page 3

With the arrival of summer, I would like to remind residents that the Town does not have an ordinance on hours of operation in which a contractor or landscaper may work at a property. We would expect such hours to be 7:00 am - 5:00 pm weekdays with limited work hours on the weekends. We rely on residents to be neighborly and considerate by ensuring that construction, and the use of power tools and landscaping equipment, be only during these times. Please be mindful of your neighbor's right to enjoy their property.

ONCE AGAIN HURRICANE SEASON IS UPON US.

Hurricane season is June 1st - November 30th each year, though storms can occur outside these dates. The Town of Essex has an Emergency Preparedness Guidebook for our residents and you may want to refer to these guidelines to help you prepare.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VALLEY REGIONAL CLASS OF 2021!

Your future is bright! I encourage you to use the resilience and maturity you have gained from the sacrifices brought on by the pandemic to foster good relationships, be respectful to those with opposing opinions, seek excellence, and look positively toward what you can contribute and accomplish in the future.

Onward together,
Norm

Norm Needleman, First Selectman

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Sustainable Essex

The Essex Food Scrap collection program has delivered continually improving results since our April 5th implementation. Over the past month we have averaged over 560 pounds of food scraps collected each week with a record breaking 650 pounds for the week ending 6/25!! On an annual basis this would be equivalent to reducing greenhouse gasses, that would be produced by food decomposition in landfill, by more than 27,000 pounds. Food scraps are sent to Quantum Biopower's anaerobic digester where the waste is transformed to electricity and compost. Thanks to all the town residents that are supporting this program! To see how greenhouse gas reduction effects things in everyday terms go to: epa.gov (Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator) or naturbag.com.

We would like to know what Essex residents think of this program. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and send your responses to: sustextc@gmail.com.

1. Will you participate in this program?
2. What would prevent you from participating?
3. How can we make it easier for you to participate?
4. Would you pay for curbside food scrap pickup?
5. Do you know what it means to compost?
6. Comments?

Sustainable Essex successfully completed a Community Matching



Our young residents assisted in a clean sweep this spring.

Fund drive raising \$2,495.00 from generous Essex residents (matched 1:1 by Sustainable CT) that will be used to fund the SEED discussion series. Thanks to all who contributed!

The Sustainable Essex Environmental Discussion ("SEED") Series is in full swing with events planned for the remainder of summer and throughout the fall. These include an event scheduled for August 17th that will provide important details about the forthcoming town-wide Source to Sea cleanup event. More information for this big event will be coming soon! For information regarding all Sustainable Essex upcoming events, check our Sustainable Essex Website: sustainableessex.com, and follow our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Sustainable-Essex-106425227739836.



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146 HAMBURG ROAD

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549 MAPLE AVENUE

Old Saybrook • \$3,575,000



97 INJUN HOLLOW ROAD

Haddam • \$2,980,000



30 WEST AVENUE

Essex • \$2,789,000 • *Newly Priced*



69 NECK ROAD

Old Lyme • \$1,245,000



123 CHESTNUT HILL ROAD

East Hampton • \$595,000 • *Lot*



16 HILL ROAD

Old Saybrook • \$349,000 • *Newly Listed Lot*



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Essex Community Fund

ABOUT US

Created in 1949, Essex Community Fund is one of the oldest and most unique programs in the Essex Community that raises and distributes funds to our local non-profit organizations that focus on: food and meal programs, health services, education, supporting our senior citizens, fuel assistance, public safety, arts and culture. Thank you to our donors. With your donations we are able to continue to support these vital organizations that help to keep our community healthy and thriving.

2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Essex Community Fund is pleased to announce our 2021 Grant Recipients.

Still following Covid guidelines, checks were mailed this year with hopes that next year we will be able to gather together to celebrate the achievements of our local non-profits.

Little Compassion Inc./The Nest
Bikes for Kids
Camp Hazen YMCA
Community Music School
Essex Elementary School Camperships
Essex Fuel Assistance Program
Essex Housing Authority
Essex Veterans Memorial Hall
Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.

Incarnation Center/Bushy Hill
Ivoryton Library Association
Ivoryton Playhouse
Region 4 Foundation
Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries
Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau
Valley Shore YMCA
VRHS Photo Club
VNA of Lower Valley, Inc.

CONSIDER BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Volunteering with ECF is a great way to learn more about your community's needs and how you can help improve it for you, your family, your neighbors, and even future generations; plus, it's a great way to give back to your community. ECF has many opportunities to volunteer. Please contact us to learn more; we welcome your time and talent.

For more information please visit: www.essexcommunityfund.org.

Three Valley Regional HS Students Receive Yale Book Award

ERIN WARD, Chester

Erin is a conscientious, diligent student. She likes to stay active and participates in soccer, gymnastics and track, and likes to snowboard in the winter. She likes to read, watch documentaries, bake and likes doing interior design projects. She is also a member of the Interact club and volunteers throughout the community. Her future goal is to attend medical school, so she is looking at competitive schools and has been accepted at the Young Scholars program this summer at Yale.

COOPER JOHNSON, Deep River

Cooper has done very well academically. He challenges himself each year with high level classes including two AP classes and four honors level classes this year. He has a strong interest in math, science and music. In the future he would like to attend a school with strong math, science and music programs. He has been involved in the school's musicals.

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ELLA PITMAN, Essex

Ella has done very well academically. She challenges herself each year with high level classes including three AP classes and an IB class this year. She loves working with young children and has an interest in early childhood education or speech pathology in the future.

Bradford W. Galiette
Secretary, Yale College Class of 2008

Tri-Town Cub Scouts Pack 13 Chester-Deep River-Essex

Tri-Town Cub Scout Pack 13 Chester-Deep River- Essex is dedicated to the growth and development of boys and girls in grades K-5. Cub Scouts in Pack 13 are given wholesome opportunities for physical, mental and intellectual development. Most of all - Everything is focused on FUN!

2020-2021 IN REVIEW

Tri-Town Cub Scout Pack 13 kept busy through the COVID-19 challenges from September to June. We have held a fall and spring campout, marched in Memorial Day parades, decorated Veteran graves with American flags for Veteran's Day in Chester and Memorial Day in Centerbrook. The Pack also held their Better Late than Never In-Person Pinewood Derby at Camp Hazen this year where the creativity of our scouts showed in all the fantastic car designs.

continued on page 10



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Cub Scouts... continued from page 9



Tri-Town Cub Scout Pack 13 End of the Year Awards June 12, 2021.

Through virtual and in-person den and pack meetings the 22 Cub Scouts have earned the following awards from September to June:

- 188 Adventure Belt-loops,
- 43 Webelos Adventure Pins,
- 13 NOVA-STEM Awards,
- 3 Religious Emblem Knots,
- 10 Cub Scout World Conservation Awards and
- 9 Whittling Chips!

Each award represents a fun learning opportunity in a grade level appropriate way.

939 MILES HIKED BY THE CUB SCOUT YOUTH!

This year the leaders decided to get everyone outside as much as possible and created the Pack 13 Hike of the Month Program where the Cub Scouts can earn a hiking stick and mileage awards for the hiking stick. From October 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 the 22 Cub Scouts of Pack 13 have hiked a collective 939 miles of CT State Parks and local land trust properties, while introducing the practices of the Leave-No-Trace principles and the Outdoor Code to the Cub Scouts. Next year the goal is to hike more miles!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES:

Pack 13 will be holding outdoor "Come and Try Us Out Events" in July and August. Keep your eyes out for posters at the local libraries and town email newsletters or contact us and ask to be added to the email list.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

For more information or to join Cub Scout Pack please email Cubmaster GR Nash Jr. or Pack Committee Chair, Lianne Rutty at: tritownpack13@gmail.com. Families can sign up at anytime of the year, if you think your child would enjoy and benefit from what we offer. Parents are encouraged to become leaders. Training is required for all adult volunteer leaders, and is provided by both the Pack and the Boy Scouts of America Council office.

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Essex Land Trust & The Pollinator Pathway



For over 50 years the Essex Land Trust (ELT) has upheld its vision “to preserve our community’s open space and natural resources for the benefit of future generations.” The conservation of wildlife habitats, forests, fields, rivers, wetlands, and scenic

views by maintaining numerous greenspace properties throughout Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton continues.

Over the past four years the land trust has expanded its focus to include establishing gardens to increase the support of native pollinators so critical to current and future generations. Currently we have two gardens on ELT properties established and maintained by a growing group of ELT volunteers. A third garden was established in 2020 at The Essex Historic Society’s (EHS) Pratt House through a joint, collaboration with volunteers representing EHS, ELT, The Essex Garden Club (EGC), River COG and individuals from our three villages.

POLLINATOR PATHWAY NORTHEAST

These gardens are now part of the Pollinator Pathway Northeast - a collective of towns across Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania which tie into the National Pollinator Pathway initiative.

Essex is one of 28 towns in Connecticut creating local pathways to support migration and feeding habits of our native pollinators. For more information on the Pollinator Pathway Northeast and its mission “Establishing pollinator friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife,” log onto: www.pollinator-pathway.org.

While you’re out enjoying the summer weather this year, you can find our gardens at the locations noted and described below. Aside from their beauty, the gardens can be a fun educational visit.

How many of the plant species can you identify? Brochures at the Cross Lots kiosk and a legend of plants on the side of the shed at The Pratt House can help. The types of bees, butterflies and birds visiting can change based on time of day. Who will you see while you’re there?

CROSS LOTS - 40 WEST AVENUE

The Essex Pollinator Pathway got its start in 2016 when ELT in partnership with the EGC established the Pollinator Garden at Cross Lots. Now, a few seasons later, the Pollinator Garden with dozens of native nectar plants provides important food for birds, native bees, bats, and a variety of butterflies. Some of the

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The Essex Pollinator Pathway at Cross Lots - 40 West Avenue, left and Osage Trails - Foxboro Road, right.



flowering plants are Monarda (Bee Balm), Agastache (Giant Hyssop), Echinacea (Cone Flower), and Aster.

Brochures that identify the garden plants are available on the side of the Cross Lots kiosk. In addition to a list of the blooms, the brochure also indicates bloom times and the pollinators that favor each plant. The bloom cycle starts in mid-April and continues

through September. The brochure can also be used as a planting guide if you want to establish your own pollinator garden to help support the food chain.

OSAGE TRAILS - FOXBORO ROAD

In 2018 the ELT decided to revitalize the nearly 1,800 square foot **continued on page 16**

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DEEP RIVER ROASTERS

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Essex Land Trust... continued from page 15

perennial garden that was originally part of an eight-acre park like property donated to the ELT 20 years earlier. The garden beds were cleared of years of debris to uncover what was left of Diz Callender's original plantings. In 2019 things started to come back to life revealing original plantings of Iris, Daffodils, Black-eyed Susan, Butterfly bush, Lilacs and Butterfly weed. More natives including New England Aster, Common Milkweed, Hyssop, Bee Balm and Penstemon were added to the original plantings by ELT Volunteers. In its second season, the garden is a buzz with an ever-growing population of bees, butterflies, and birds.

THE PRATT HOUSE POLLINATOR GARDEN - 19 WEST AVENUE

In 2020, the Essex Historical Society offered the use of an area on The Pratt House Historic Property for a new pollinator garden. A group of individuals representing the EHS, ELT, EGC, Essex Sustainability Committee and River COG came together and established a new pollinator garden.

Almost 200 plants creating a selection of 40 different varieties of natives and perennials known to benefit native bees, birds and butterflies were planted across 2/3 of the 1500 square foot space. The balance of the garden is targeted for planting in 2021. The project fits in with the growing concern to help support our food chain by providing pollinator pockets with the hope of establishing a pathway in the Northeast. If you like to garden and would like to join our ELT Garden Volunteers, please email us at info@essexlandtrust.org.

Pam Peters

Essex Land Trust Coming Events

NAME THAT PRESERVE CONTEST

The Essex Land Trust is excited to offer you a chance to know our preserves and town properties by testing your knowledge by identifying the location of some of our favorite spots. So, it's time to explore some of the Essex's Open Space areas. Prizes will be given to the top ten individuals who achieve the most accurate entries. We are calling this event the Name that Preserve contest, although it might also be described as a scavenger hunt.

HERE'S THE IDEA: We have created a photo album with pictures grouped into four categories.

Structures (bridges, stairs, steps, bog walks)

Stones & Stone Walls (significant boulders, split rocks, memorial boulders, geodetic markers)

Relaxations Spots (a place to sit down, relax and enjoy one's surroundings)

Notable Views (locations that feature an inspirational view)

Explore land trust and town properties, look for the sites featured in the pictures and correctly identify the property name. To participate, fill out the entry form and submit to the land trust email address at: info@essexlandtrust.org. **Entries must be received by 09/15/21.** To access the entry form and contest photo album log onto: https://www.essexlandtrust.org/05_activities.html.

ANNUAL SOURCE TO SEA CLEANUP, SEPTEMBER 24-26

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Connecticut River Conservancy's Annual Source to Sea Cleanup and the Essex Land Trust is proud to be a part of it. The event will be held on September 24-26, 2021, and involves hundreds of



1



2



3



4



Essex Land Trust

Name That Preserve

Notable Views

(locations that feature an inspirational view)

Left, A sample of four images for the Name That Preserve Contest.

volunteers in small groups across all four Connecticut River states. Groups will cover nearly the entire length of the Connecticut River from Stratford, NH all the way to Old Saybrook, CT and included many tributaries along the way. The land trust will be announcing the specific date, timing, and location closer to the date.



Annual Source to Sea Cleanup.




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SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Richard Gallacher, David Martin, David Massey, Paul Mackenzie		

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Yvonne Roziak, Assistant	x128	yroziak@essexct.gov

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ZONING ENFORCEMENT

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Kerry Berardinelli	x119	kberardinelli@essexct.gov

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Essex Historical Society Late Summer Events



EHS's popular walking tours return this summer and fall, thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC). With personal audio devices, EHS offers safe, social-distanced walking tours to enjoy a little exercise with your history. Stay tuned for dates, times and topics through EHS's website and social media.

PRATT HOUSE

Sundays through September, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
19 West Avenue, Essex

Visit Pratt House, Essex's only historic house museum, as it reopens to the public following 18 months of pandemic-based closure. Learn from your knowledgeable guides about early life in a Connecticut River seaport town. The well-preserved 18th century home served the same family for 200 years, many of them sharing in the family blacksmith business. Visit our beautiful grounds, Historic Kitchen and Pollinator Gardens, reconstructed barn with history time line and museum shop. Free.



Don't miss Essex Historical Society's Lobster Bake on September 12 at Ceterbrook Architects.

FOLLOW THE FALLS CELEBRATING CENTERBROOK LOBSTER BAKE GALA

Sunday, September 12, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Centerbrook Architects, 67 Main Street, Centerbrook

Join us for an afternoon enjoying Centerbrook and the natural beauty of the Falls River as we explore its rich history with a riverside soiree and lobster bake, hosted by Essex Historical Society and Essex Land Trust, held at Centerbrook Architects. Catered by Flanders Fish Market. Event limited to first 100 registrants; \$95 per person.



History Hits the Streets! EHS's Walking Tours return this summer and fall; check our website and social media for dates / times.

“FROM THE CONNECTICUT HEADWATERS TO THE SOUND: A Day of Stories and Song with the Nehantic and the Abenaki”

Saturday, September 25, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex.

EHS invites you to connect with the Indigenous Peoples of the Lower CT River Valley in this full day event in partnership with the Connecticut River Museum and the Nehantic and Abenaki Peoples. Free.

For the latest info, please visit EHS's website at: www.essexhistory.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. See you soon!

Visit our website at:
www.essexhistory.org

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The Essex Library invites you into our air-conditioned space for your enjoyment this summer. Come in to browse our stacks, select materials to borrow, take home a craft kit, read a newspaper or magazine, print a document from your mobile device or attend one of our Children's Tails and Tales Summer Reading events.

As an Essex resident, you also have 24/7 access to thousands of eBooks, digital audiobooks, eMagazines as well as IndieFlix and Qello concert films for free with the Libby app from OverDrive. You'll need your Essex Library card to create an account.

Don't have a card? You can register for a card online or stop in and get one Monday - Saturday.

Missed one of our programs on Zoom? You can view many of those at your leisure on the Library's YouTube channel.

Bring a blanket and Children's Librarian Christina Carpino will bring the fun as she reads stories in the Main Street Park on Thursdays at 10:30 am through August 12.

At 4:00 pm on August 12 we'll be celebrating Tails and Tales with a Virtual Pet Parade. Submit photos and videos of your pets (especially if they're caught reading!) to: ccarpino@essexlib.org.

The End Of Summer Bash will take place on August 28 at 10:00 am in the Main Street Park. The Essex and Ivoryton Libraries will celebrate the great job everyone did with their summer reading with a party featuring Dancing With Hoops by Judi Ann Jones. Heartfelt thanks to Scoops and Toys Ahoy for their dedicated support of summer reading in town. Have a great summer!

For more information, contact us at:

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The Friends of the Essex Library

THE FRIENDS OF THE ESSEX LIBRARY ARE ALMOST
BACK IN FULL SWING!

We are now accepting book donations in good condition as we prepare for our Fall Book Sale in October (no CD's or DVDs please.) The August focused sale will be Art and Coffee Table books in the foyer and just inside the inner doors. There are many pristine and interesting books to choose from.

The Friends are currently working on our next fundraiser which is based on a Bingo Card theme. Players will complete tasks by patronizing local businesses. Once a line is completed on the card it then can be entered into a raffle for prizes. The game will begin in September so look for more information at the end of the summer.

Also, we look forward to holding our normal fall book sale planned for Saturday, October 16th and Monday October 18th, so save the date! We hope to see you there.

We would like to thank everyone for your support of the Friends during the last 15 months and your continued support as our lives return to normal! Because of your support, the Friends were able to donate \$4,500.00 to the Essex Library which contributes to the wonderful programs provided free of charge to the public.

And remember to check the library's website at: www.youressexlibrary.org, to see what's new at the library and with the Friends!

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Ivoryton Library 1871 – 2021

This year, the Ivoryton Library celebrates 150 years of serving our community. Planning for this year began pre-pandemic and now most of our year-long celebration has been shortened into 4 months.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

Time Capsule Dedication at the Ivoryton Library

Saturday, August 14 (Rain Date: 8/15)

Paint Night at the Ivoryton Inn*

Tuesday, September 8

Birthday Gala at Essex Steam Train*

Friday, October 1

Murder Mystery Dinner at the Copper Beech Inn*

Saturday, November 6

* Tickets on sale soon. All events support the 150th Anniversary Endowment Fund.



The Ivoryton Library Book Stack measures the growth of the 150th Anniversary Endowment Fund.

**WE'VE ALREADY BEGUN OUR
150TH ANNIVERSARY
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN.**

Different from our membership drive, which helps fund the current year of operations, we're looking for 150 people to donate \$150 dollars to our endowment fund to help ensure the library continues to serve for the next 150 years. More information is on our website if you'd like to help.

We thank our Lead Sponsors:

Tower Laboratories LTD and Essex Assets Advisors as well as: Essex Financial Services, The Ivoryton Inn, The Lee Company, Penniman Architects and Sullivan Lawn Services.

**SUMMER READING IN THE
CHILDREN'S ROOM HAS BEGUN!**

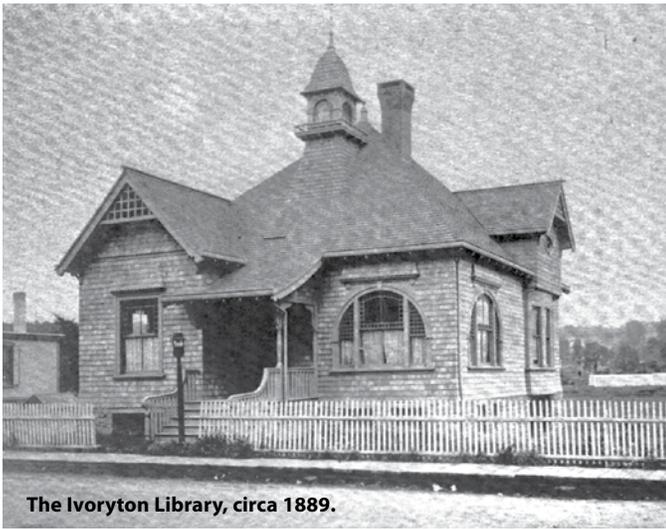
Join us for these special programs:

The Frightened Frog on Zoom with CT DEEP, Tuesday, July 20th at 6:00 pm. Learn the challenges of being a frog!

Who Pooped in the Park? With our friends from CT DEEP on Wednesday, August 4th at 10:30 am in the Children's Garden. Learn what animals have been in the area.

21st Annual Welcome to Kindergarten Party on Wednesday, August 18th at 10:30 am in the Children's Garden. For all soon-to-be Kindergarteners.

End of Summer Reading Bash on Saturday, August 28th at 10:00 am in Main Street Park in Essex Village. Judi Ann Jones is back with her interactive Hula Hoop entertainment



The Ivoryton Library, circa 1889.

ON-GOING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Family Craft Night on Zoom,

Thursdays at 7:00 pm, July 29 & August 12

Storytimes in the Children's Garden,

Wednesdays at 10:30 am (suggested ages 2 and up)

Mommy & Me Music & Movement,

Fridays at 10:30 am in the Children's Garden.

(suggested ages birth to 2 years)

Information for all of these events is available on our website at: ivorytonlibrary.org or call 860-767-1252.

Sister Cities Marching Bands

HEY, SAILING MASTERS OF ESSEX CT!

Did you know you have a "sister band" in rural Deschapelles, Haiti? That band is named the Fanfare Band and it is connected with the Deschapelles Community Library sponsored by the Essex based Sister Cities Essex Haiti organization. You both share a long history of celebrating special occasions.

The Fanfare Band traces its beginnings all the way back to when enslaved Africans, brought their drumming traditions to Saint-Domingue (the French colony on the island of Hispaniola) as early as the 1600's. During Colonial Days the French Garde incorporated slaves into their military bands. Members were taught to play marching drums, brass, and woodwind instruments. After their Revolution of 1804 freed the slaves, many brass and woodwind instruments remained in the possession of the now freed citizens of the newly created independent country of Haiti. Former slaves continued to use these instruments and others to play in local bands that continue to exist.

Deschapelles is one of the many towns that has bands descended from Revolutionary days. The band also performs at funerals with specific songs used during the traditional funeral march
continued on page 22

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REMODEL WITH PURPOSE

Sister Cities... continued from page 21



to and from the burial as well as special events. The Deschapelles Band recently led a parade to celebrate the first Regional Robotics Competition at the Deschapelles Community Library with a Drum Major leading, setting out step patterns for the cadre of "majorettes, followed by the four Robotics Teams, the judges and arbiters.

At the request of the Deschapelles Fanfare Band, members of Sister Cities Essex Haiti and the Community Music School in Centerbrook have traveled twice to Deschapelles to bring instruments, music, to spend a week augmenting skills and playing music together. These visits create strong bonds.

Jenifer Grant and Jeff Kuchenbecker

Essex - Community Listings

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

- All Saints Episcopal Church..... (860) 767-1698
- First Baptist Church..... (860) 767-8623
- First Congregational Church (860) 767-8097
- Ivoryton Congregational Church..... (860) 767-1004
- Our Lady of Sorrows Church (860) 767-1284
- St. John's Episcopal Church..... (860) 767-8095
- Trinity Lutheran Church (860) 767-0228

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Ancient Order of Weeders..... (860) 767-2700
- Democratic Town Committee..... (781) 483-2021
- Community Foundation of Middlesex County..... (860) 347-0025
- Tri-Town Cub Scout Pack 13..... (860)-558-2121
- tritownpack13@gmail
- Essex Board of Trade..... (860) 767-3904
- Essex Boy Scouts of America..... (860) 304-9027
- Essex Community Fund..... (860) 304-2751
- Essex Cub Scouts of America (860) 790-0681
- Essex Garden Club (860) 388-7209

- Essex Historical Society (860) 767-0681
- Essex Lion's Club (860) 767-8072
- Essex Land Trust..... info@landtrust.org
- Essex Little League..... www.essexlittleleague.org
- Essex Veterans Memorial Hall (860) 767-8892
- F.I.S.H. (860) 388-2693
- Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers..... (860) 767-2237
- Ivoryton Village Alliance info@ivorytonalliance.org
- Lower Valley Visiting Nurses (860) 767-0186
- Republican Town Committee..... (860) 262-0226
- SCORE Mentors (860) 388-9508
- The Shoreline Soup Kitchens (860) 388-1988
- Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau (860) 526-3600
- 9 Town Transit (860) 510-0429

SCHOOLS

- Essex Elementary School..... (860) 767-8215
- John Winthrop Middle School..... (860) 526-9546
- Superintendent..... (860) 526-2417
- Valley Regional High School..... (860) 526-5328

White Wines for Summer

Summer has officially arrived and it is time to start planning picnics, trips to the beach and barbecues. Nothing screams summer like a refreshing glass of white wine. Instead of shopping for your go-to chardonnay or pinot grigio, use this time to experiment with a wide variety of unique white varietals and white blends.

If you are looking for something very light with a mild effervescence look no further than a Portuguese “green wine,” or Vinho Verde. These wines are low in alcohol and typically inexpensive. This can be a great substitute for a sparkling wine if you are looking for something lightweight and refreshing.

Another light style wine that has nice acidity and good flavor is white Bordeaux from France. Typically comprised of sauvignon blanc and semillon, these wines compliment seafood perfectly. France is also well known for their Rhone Valley varietals; Marsanne, Rousanne, Viognier and Ugni Blanc. These varietal are beautiful on their own and are also blended together to make beautiful Côtes du Rhône Blanc and Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc. Another beautiful French varietal from the Muscadet region in the Loire Valley is Melon. Clay soils and granite slopes give this white great minerality with an occasional touch of effervescence.

Another great white varietal is Chenin Blanc. Most popularly found as a single varietal in South Africa where it is crisp and dry with complexity, it is also well known as Vouvray in France where it tends to be fruity. In California it is used in a lot of blending, especially with Viognier, but it is becoming more popular as a stand-alone varietal.

There are many sweeter varietals like Riesling, Gewürztraminer and Moscato which are becoming increasingly popular as well. If you like your wine very sweet Moscato is the way to go, and if you prefer just a hint of sweetness you can choose a blend that uses some drier grapes like chardonnay and sauvignon blanc and blends in the riesling. Sweet wines are always a great compliment to spicy foods, cheese platters and desserts.

Prep your palate for some new found gems and seek out your favorite wine guru to guide you to some fresh new white wines for this summer. Whether you are hosting an event or simply enjoying a gorgeous day on the back deck these great white varietals will not disappoint!

Art LiPuma, General Manager
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Prevent Tick Bites and Tick-Borne Disease

Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Powassan Virus, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are just some of the many tick-borne diseases resulting from tick bites.

On June 15, 2021, two CT residents tested positive for Powassan Virus infection this season. Annually, approximately 1,800 - 2,200 cases of Lyme Disease are reported in CT. These diseases are preventable.

Simple actions to prevent tick bites and reduce your risk of disease:

- Wear protective clothing (long sleeve shirts and long pants)
- Avoid time spent in tick-infested habitats.
- Use tick repellents (follow manufacturer's instructions)
- Daily tick check of your entire body
- Prompt removal of an attached tick
- Manage tick habitats around your home & yard (landscape management; remove leaf litter, brush, & weeds at edge of the lawn; discourage rodent activity; manage pet activity)

Refer to the Tick Management Handbook for excellent information on personal protection, integrated tick management, and tick-associated diseases. This handbook is on the CAES (Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station) website at: <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES>.

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Actual size of Deer Ticks relative to a Dime. Stages shown are Larva, Nymph, Adult male and Adult female.

TICK TESTING

If you remove a tick from your body, you may submit it to your Local Health Dept for testing. There is no fee for testing.

To submit a tick to the Essex Health Dept, simply put the tick in a small container or sealed plastic bag, complete the Tick Submission Form (available on the CAES website or at the Essex Health Department) and drop them off at the Health Dept in Town Hall.

The Health Dept will send it to the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) for testing and you will receive the results by email within a few days.

The tick can be submitted alive. Do not affix the tick to tape. CAES does not test ticks recovered from pets.

Should you have any tick related questions you can also call the Essex Health Department at: 860-767-4340 x 118 or x 151.

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Why Does the Health Department Care About Irrigation Permits?

THE ANSWER MAY SURPRISE YOU.

In the State of Connecticut Public Health Code, there is a requirement that all water piping (including irrigation systems) be kept at least 10' from septic systems (septic tank and leaching fields.) It further states that such systems within 25' of septic systems are not to be backfilled with free draining material (sand or stone.) The code does not specify if it makes any difference between well water or city water.

OKAY... GREAT... IT'S A CODE ISSUE... BIG DEAL RIGHT?

Well, yes It is! Sprinkler heads are recessed into the ground and subjected to whatever lands around them. This could be bird, dog, raccoon or other animal feces or lawncare herbicides and pesticides. If there is a fire somewhere nearby and a fire hydrant is opened, or if there is a water main break, there can be a reversal of water pressure which could draw contaminants into the sprinkler heads. Such contaminants can then enter the potable water system and sicken many people. Some of you are saying, "but there should be a backflow prevention device on the irrigation system." You are correct. You may not be aware that such devices can fail and need to be checked

yearly for proper operation. That usually doesn't happen unless the water utility is aware they have been installed.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE

Another unintended consequence is that an irrigation contractor who doesn't check for septic location, often will run their lines all over the septic area. While this creates problems as noted above, it also leads to problems working on the septic in the future. Lines get ripped up and homeowners get angry about something that should never have been placed to begin with. So do us all a favor and get a permit!



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Harry Segal & Johanna Savad	28 River Road	Essex
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Sara Rendtorff-Smith	2 Clarks Pond Lane	Essex
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James & Michelle Duffy	33 Laurel Road	Essex

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Connecticut River Museum News

The weather has warmed up and so has the activity at the end of Main Street where pavement meets the Connecticut River!

As the seasons change from wet to warm, we are beginning to see a lot more people emerge into public; whether on the water enjoying a sail aboard the Onrust or in the evening at our Shanties and Sails series. It is so nice to have people roaming our campus again.

We have already kicked off summer with our staple event, RiverFare, where we enjoyed cuisine and drink from local businesses. We are not done yet... we have a lineup of events both ongoing and annual that we are excited to host!

THURSDAYS ON THE DOCK

Begins on July 8 and runs through August 26.

Our lineup can't be beat! Our concerts run from 5:30 - 7:30 pm each Thursday evening. Porky Pete's is always on hand to serve you a delicious picnic dinner. And while we pass a hat, we are thankful that Prive Swiss Wellness has been a major support to us throughout the years. Be sure to check our website or social channels for the latest information.



The Onrust awaits visitors at RiverFare 2021.

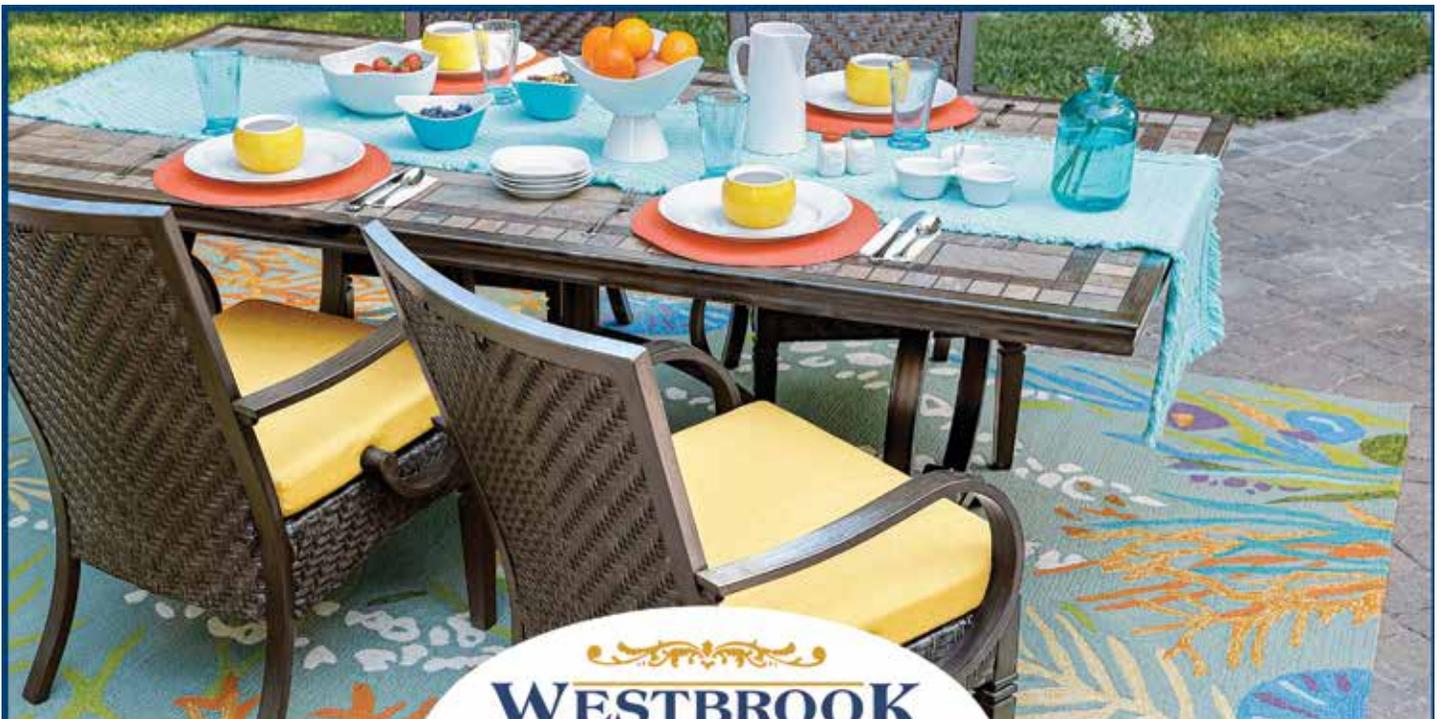
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Curiouser & Curiouser

It was a warm summer afternoon in Essex with a cloudless sky, and blinding sunshine bouncing off the river. Elijah, an eleven year old boy, walked with his mom, dad and younger sister Sadie to enjoy a picnic near the water in the center of town; while their Golden Retriever Molly pranced excitedly beside him.

After gobbling chicken sandwiches and mom's homemade chocolate chip cookies, (with Molly getting her fair share when mom & dad weren't looking) Elijah stretched out under a shady Maple tree with Molly curled up at his feet. He closed his eyes, daydreaming about Summer; but also about all of the Essex parades he was looking forward to during the year. In fact, Elijah was already planning his Halloween costume.

Elijah woke with a start to the sound of fife & drum music. Looking around, he spotted a large crowd gathered along Main Street. His family was nowhere to be seen. Even Molly was gone.

As he sat up, Elijah was startled to find their family cat Binx watching him with a curious look and a hint of a smile. Elijah grinned and asked; "What are you doing here?" To which Binx replied; "Come on! We're going to miss the parade!"



Elijah blinked and stared wide-eyed, before Binx turned and ambled toward the crowd. Elijah quickly snapped out of what he thought he had heard and scrambled after Binx; scooping him up in his arms so the cat did not get lost among the sea of legs.

As he and Binx nudged their way to the front of the onlookers lining the street; Elijah searched for the source of the music. To his astonishment, The Sailing Masters of 1812 were marching and playing with groundhog caps adorning their heads; followed by Essex ED! Everyone on the packed sidewalk was wearing groundhog hats, and were banging pots &



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pans to welcome ED. Elijah looked at Binx and protested; “But it’s summer!” with Binx only smiling back.

After the parade made its way down the street, Elijah realized there was more music approaching. Eyeing the street, he could not believe his eyes. The Sailing Masters were marching once more! Only this time, brightly colored Irish flags were flying in the color guard and they were trailed by Irish-Hearted folk promenading down the street. They, and now all those watching the parade, were turned out in green.



The Sailing Masters!

Elijah next spied a colorful brigade of Fife & Drum Corps proudly marching with flags snapping in the breeze and musicians playing fife & drum tunes from days of yore. Who was in the lead? The Sailing Masters! Looking sharp in their War of 1812 Navy uniforms! Everyone was cheering! Studying Binx’s bemused face; Elijah exclaimed: “This is incredible!”

After the final fife & drum corps paraded by, Elijah immediately watched to see what was coming next. Sure enough, trooping down the lane were pirates, and jesters, and clowns... oh my! But even in Halloween costume, Elijah quickly knew who was heading the parade. The Sailing Masters! Following **continued on page 32**

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Sailing Masters... continued from page 31

in their wake, and lining the streets were adults and children masquerading as vampires, superheroes & princesses. Elijah could even smell the popcorn and cider waiting at the end of the parade.

Daring to look down the street once more, Elijah shook his head as the Sailing Masters approached yet again; playing festive holiday music. Spectators held lanterns, while musicians and singers charmed onlookers with carols in the warm glow of colorful lights and evergreen boughs. All followed the parade down to the CT River to be treated to a parade of boats, blazing with multi-colored lights, accompanied by the Sailing Masters' holiday refrains. Binx looked up at Elijah and declared; "I love Essex parades!" Elijah could only gape at Binx and whisper; "I don't believe this!"

Sadie woke Elijah by tickling his nose with a seagull feather. "Wake up!" The sun was low in the sky. Mom and dad were packing up, and Molly was lying at his feet as before. But, no Binx.

The evening shadows were long when Elijah returned home, with dad carrying a dozing Sadie. Binx was sitting on a low bough in a tree in the front yard. Elijah smiled and said, "Binx, you would NOT believe the dream I had." Binx looked at him with what seemed to Elijah to be a very knowing look and curious smile. Elijah glanced back just before opening the door of the house. Binx had melted into the shadows of twilight. But, Elijah could have sworn he saw a mischievous grin among the branches. Curiouser & Curiouser...



If you have dreamed of joining a Fife & Drum Corps, and are "curiouser and curiouser" about being part of everything "Essex", the Sailing Masters invite you to "Come Aboard!" No previous musical experience required. Mischievous grins encouraged. You can choose from fife, snare drum, bass drum, and color guard (carry a flag.) For more information please call Vicki at: 860-212-1606 or email captainvicki1812@gmail.com; or call Amanda at 860-575-8931 or email: aepfairbanks@gmail.com.



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The Ivoryton Playhouse

The Ivoryton Playhouse opened its doors for the 2021 season on July 8th with a sold out first week and the promise of a joyous summer ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to

say thank you to all of our subscribers, members and donors who supported us through this past year and helped us stay afloat both financially and emotionally, with your outpouring of love and encouragement. I want to say a special thank you to the Essex Lions Club for helping us to clean up the theatre in preparation for opening, and also the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for their uplifting support for our free summer concerts.

This year has made us all very aware of how much we need to come together to build bridges, share experiences and celebrate our humanity. On August 12th we will open the second show of the summer, **HAVING OUR SAY: THE DELANY SISTERS FIRST 100 YEARS.**

Trailblazers, activist, and best friends, the Delany sisters — 103-year-old Sadie and Bessie, age 101 — take us on a provocative and entertaining journey of triumphs over prejudice, drawn from their rich family history and their careers as pioneering African-American professionals. Their story is not simply African-American history or women's history. It is our history, told through the eyes of two unforgettable women as they look not only into the past, but also ahead into the twenty-first century.

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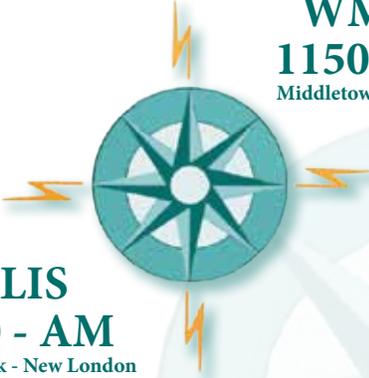
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For information about the rest of the season or to purchase tickets, go to our website at: www.ivorytonplayhouse.org or call: 860-767-7318.



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protecting them includes minimizing nutrient loading and pollution. Wetlands serve a vital purpose in absorbing nutrients in run-off, but can't do so effectively when overloaded from man-made sources. Who likes an algae-filled pond the color of green paint?



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Avoid over-spreading fertilizers onto roads and sidewalks or directly into watercourses, ponds and wetlands. The Essex Land Use Office and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) often require buffers

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in new lawn installations near wetlands, just for this reason. If you use a lawn service, remind them to keep lawn treatments to the lawn and not overspray where it will cause harm.

Pick up animal waste when you walk Fido. Left in an area that will wash into catch basins or wetlands, it will contribute to nutrient loading, and besides, it's just plain unhealthy and gross! Those regional beach closings we experience after heavy rainfall periods are very much influenced by street drains and storm sewers.

If you wash cars at home, try to do so where the run-off doesn't go into the street and down a catch basin. It's best to see it collected by the lawn (and may help it in dry periods!) Select car wash soaps that are flagged as "eco-friendly" or "green".

For more on protecting our wetlands and watercourse resources, visit: <https://www.essexct.gov/inland-wetlands-commission>. See the "Frequently Asked Questions" for guidance for property owners. Thank you for doing your part to keep our wetlands and watercourses healthy!

Summer Camp Grants Award

FAMILY HELPS PROVIDE A SUMMER OF FUN & POSITIVE YOUTH EXPERIENCES

Hooray! It's summertime - the season of fun. It's also summer camp time, and that means young people throughout Middlesex County are making new friends, learning new skills, and having the time of their lives. Inspired by the impact grants recently given to every library in Middlesex County by

a Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC) donor, one family chose to do something similar through their family fund, the M. Jones Family Fund at CFMC.

They knew first-hand the importance and the impact of summer camps: the new and lasting friendships, the activities, and everything that made camp great during their own camp days. They

also recognized the impact of the pandemic on school-age children, and they decided to take special action this year. They wanted to give that same camp experience to youth in our community. To do that, they knew the camps and town recreation departments would need help to have the resources to offer the best quality and variety of programs. Thanks to their generosity, 22 summer **continued on page 38**



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Community Foundation... continued from page 37

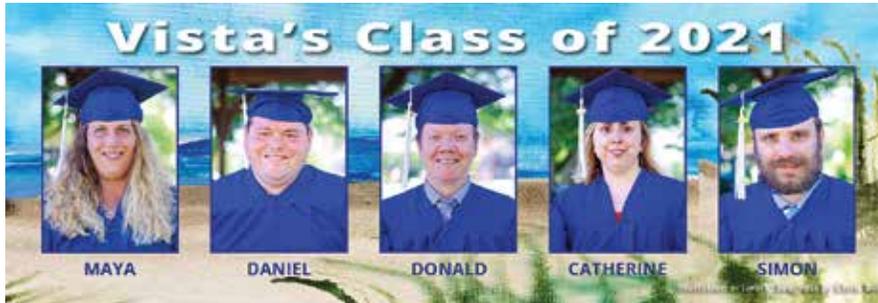
youth camps and town recreation departments each received a \$1,000 grant award to support camp programs. Can't you just hear the laughter as children start on new adventures?!

Other grant recipients included nature camps, music and theater camps, and the recreation department serving every town in Middlesex County. The only restrictions were the

funds had to be used for youth summer programs and for something fun!

To learn more about how the Community Foundation can help connect you to your area of interest and a community need, or help honor that special someone through a charitable gift, call at: 860-347-0025 or visit us online at: MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

Vista Life Innovations Holds 2021 Graduation Ceremony



On August 20, community members, families and friends will come together at The Kate in Old Saybrook to celebrate the graduation of five students

from Vista Life Innovations, a nationally accredited post-secondary program that supports the personal success of individuals with disabilities.

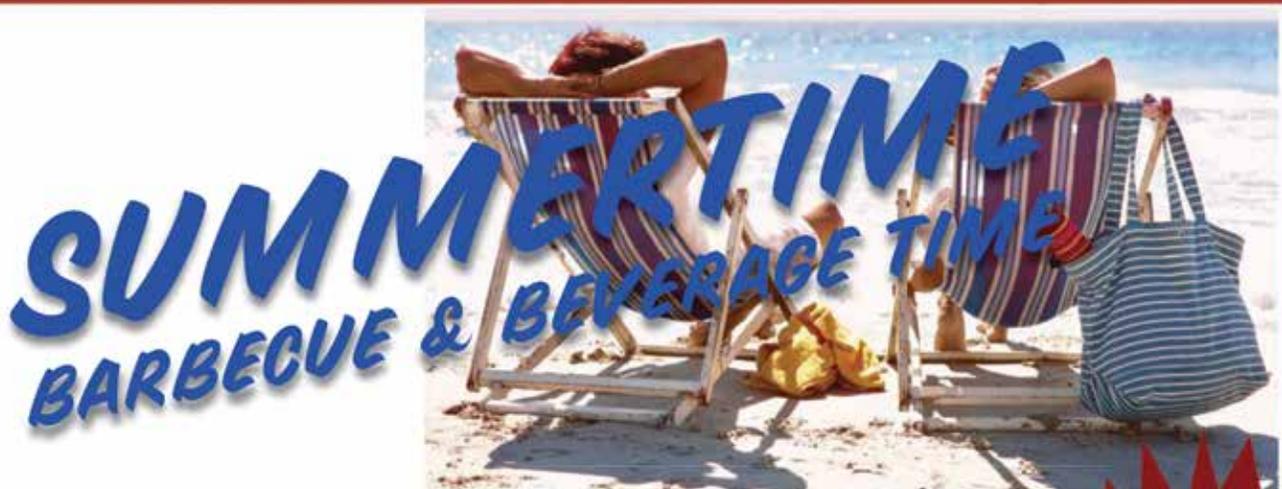
These graduates studied in Vista's residential transition program, Discover. In the Discover Program, students learn the skills necessary to live independently through experiential training in a community-based setting.

Graduation is a significant milestone that acknowledges the independence and success that students have worked hard to achieve while in the Discover Program.

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The graduates plan to join Vista's long-term, community-based program—Engage, continuing to develop themselves as they accomplish new goals.

Vista is honored to have Tina Bascom, President of Bare Necessities, Inc., as its keynote speaker for its graduation ceremony. Bare Necessities, Inc. is a non-profit organization that distributes diapers and toiletries to local food pantries and social service organizations. Bare Necessities, Inc. is one of the many valued community partners Vista works with to develop the vocational

skills of its students and members.

With campuses in Madison and Westbrook, CT, Vista has been providing services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success for 30 years.

To attend Vista's 2021 Graduation Ceremony, register at: www.vistalifeinnovations.org/graduation.

Vista Life Innovations is a 501©3 non-profit organization with its main campuses in Madison and Westbrook. For more information, visit: www.vistalifeinnovations.org.

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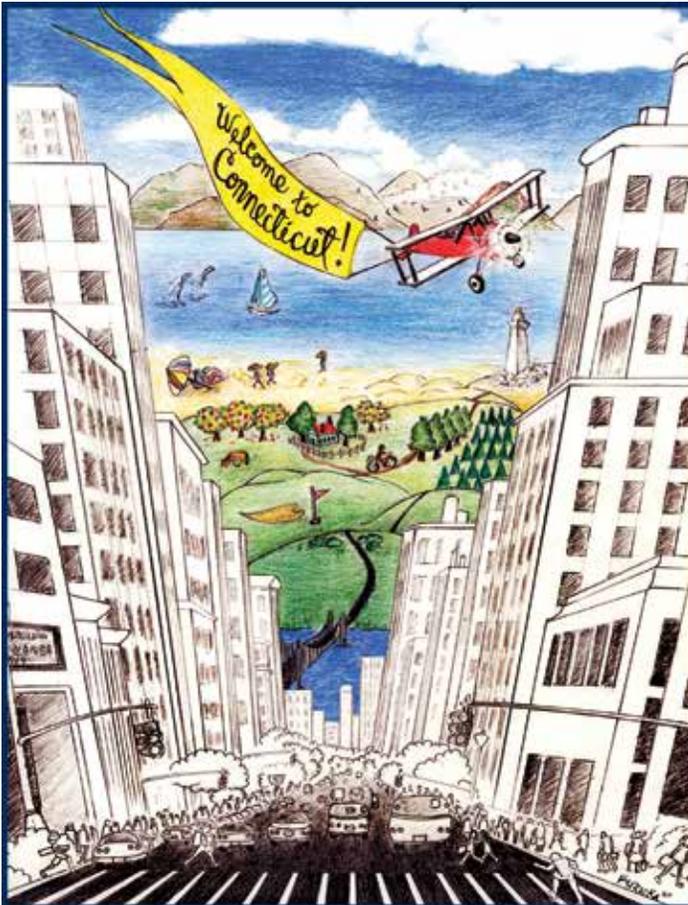


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Too Cold in Winter? Too Hot in Summer? There's a Solution with Weatherization

By Enoch Lenge

Earlier this month, New England saw five days of 90 degree-plus heat, the longest June heat wave in nearly a century. That worrying trend not only highlights the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but is also a reminder to ensure our homes are sufficiently weatherized to keep cool air in during the



summertime, not to mention warm air in during New England's notoriously brutal winters. If your home seems too hot these days, it may be time to explore weatherization to help make your home more comfortable and save money.

Weatherization is the process of making your home better protected against the effects of changing weather. It can involve actions like sealing air leaks, eliminating drafts and adding insulation. These strategies help improve your home's performance and make it more energy efficient. Plus, it can help you save money on your energy bills.

Sealing and insulating your home saves both money and energy.

Air can escape, or leak, through your home's envelope, including the outer walls, windows, doors and other openings. Your heating and cooling systems work hard to warm or cool your home, and undetected air leaks and drafts, inadequate insulation or worn out ductwork can cause those HVAC systems to use more energy without doing much to increase the comfort of the home.

And, if your HVAC system is outdated (i.e. hasn't been replaced or repaired in the last fifteen years or so) it may be producing warm or cool air inefficiently. Thus, by the time the air reaches the vents, it may be several degrees off from the starting temperature.

But by implementing weatherization techniques, such as air sealing and new insulation, your HVAC's performance is improved and the desired warm or cool air will stay inside the home, reducing energy use and saving money.

Weatherization also increases comfort.

When your home is properly weatherized by sealing leaks and adding insulation, drafts are virtually eliminated, improving the overall comfort of your home. You will notice the temperature you set your thermostat to is maintained more easily. And, if you incorporate

insulation along with air sealing, there will be a denser layer between you and the sounds outside, resulting in a quieter home and reducing the likelihood of ice dams on the roof and eaves.

Weatherization also keeps the outside from coming into your home - that includes pollen, dust and other allergens. It also reduces the chance for mold buildup. The temperature around the inside perimeter fluctuates less in a weatherized home, resulting in less moisture buildup during the summer and winter. The result is cleaner, healthier air.

Most homes in the U.S. don't have enough insulation and have significant air leaks. In fact, if you added up all the leaks, holes and gaps in a typical home's envelope, it would be the equivalent of having a window open every day of the year. But when your home's energy performance is improved, it not only makes your home more comfortable and saves money, but the consumption of water, electricity and fossil fuels (i.e. natural gas, coal and oil) are reduced as well. Thus, greenhouse gas emissions - which, of course, contribute to climate change - decrease. By weatherizing your home, you are helping the environment and contributing to emissions reductions that could help stave off future heat waves.

To learn more about how Eversource, an Energize Connecticut sponsor, can help you save energy in your Connecticut home or business with weatherization, rebates, financing and other services, go to Eversource.com.

Enoch Lenge is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesman and provides energy saving tips on the company's blog.

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The Essex Foundation 2021 Scholarship Award Benefits Local Youth

BARNES-CALLENDER BEQUEST FUNDS UNDERGRADUATE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Nathan Hill, an Ivoryton resident, has been named as the 2021 recipient of The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Memorial Scholarship by The Essex Foundation Board of Directors. The \$3000 scholarship award is presented to honor the bequest and memory of the late “Diz” Callender and her sister Mary, and is available each year to one local high school graduating senior or graduate, or an Essex resident who is pursuing studies related to land conservation and preservation at a two or four-year college, a technical school, or graduate school, or taking accredited courses in biology, botany, agronomy, ecology, horticulture, floriculture, forestry, landscape design, or environmental science. Mr. Hill graduated from Valley Regional in June and is enrolled in the University of Vermont’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources for the fall semester.

“We are honored to be the stewards of the Barnes-Callender legacy by providing support to our local youth as they pursue a higher education,” commented Bruce Glowac, President of The Essex Foundation. “Recognizing Nate’s achievement and interest in protecting our natural world and waterways is in keeping with Diz and Mary’s shared passion for the community and environment.”



2021 Valley Regional High School graduate Nathan Hill was presented with a \$3000 check by Jay Tonks, Vice President of The Essex Foundation, as this year’s recipient of The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Annual Scholarship award. Photo by: Kelly Tonks.

Supported by donations from the community, The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents by providing funding for needs not met by other organizations or sources. More information can be found online at theessexfoundation.org or by emailing: contact@theessexfoundation.org.

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2021 PINE Award of Excellence

The Print Industry of New England (PINE) announced on May 5th that Essex Printing and the Old Lyme Historical Society (OLHSI) have received an award in PINE's New England Regional Awards of Excellence competition.

Judged anonymously on its own merit in a category with similar printed pieces, the 2021 PINE Merit Award of Excellence was presented to Essex Printing and OLHSI for the society's 2021 Then & Now Calendar.

PINE's Awards of Excellence Competition attracted hundreds of entries from printing and imaging companies across New England competing in a variety of printing and graphic communications categories.



The PINE's Award of Excellence.



Shown accepting the award are Essex Printing's President, William McMinn and calendar designer, James Meehan of James Meehan Art & Design.

Visit our Town Website at: **www.essexct.gov**
 We hope you will find our website to be a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community.



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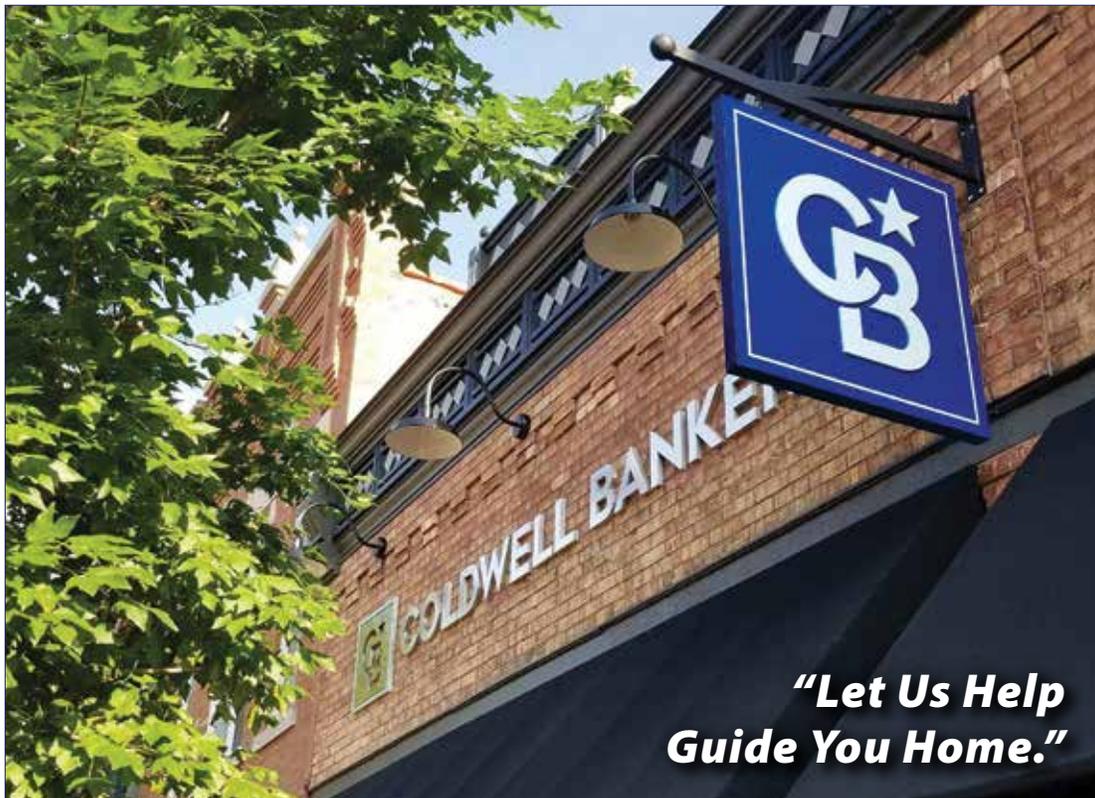
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